

### **REMARKS**

This is in response to the Office Action dated October 14, 2004, and the references cited therewith.

Claims 35, 37, 44, 45, 52, and 54 are amended. Claims 1-34, 36, 53, 55-58, and 62-75 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 35, 37-52, 54, and 59-61 are now pending in this application.

#### **Information Disclosure Statement**

Applicant submitted an Electronic Information Disclosure Statement and a 1449 Form on July 16, 2004. Applicant respectfully requests that initialed copies of the 1449 Forms be returned to Applicants' Representatives to indicate that the cited references have been considered by the Examiner.

#### **Objection to the Claims**

Claim 65 was objected to because of an informality. Applicant has cancelled claim 65.

#### **Objection to the Specification**

The specification was objected to due to an informality. Applicant has amended the specification to overcome this objection.

#### **§102 Rejection of the Claims**

Claims 1-3, 12-21, 23, 24-31, 33-35, 38-41, 43 and 62-64 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Tischendorf et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,933,086). Claims 1-3, 12-21, 23, 24-31, 33-34, and 62-64 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

#### **Claims 35, 38-41, and 43**

Claim 35 has been rewritten to include the subject matter of allowable claim 36. Claims 38-41 and 43 depend from claim 35.

Claims 4-8, 10 and 11 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by Dent et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0178385A1). Claims 4-8, 10, and 11 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 35 and 52 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hamel et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,421,178). Claims 35 has been rewritten to include the subject matter of allowable claim 36. Claim 52 has been rewritten to include the subject matter of allowable claim 53.

Claims 35 and 42 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by Rodenbeck et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,720,861).

Claim 35 has been rewritten to include the subject matter of allowable claim 36. Claim 42 depends from claim 35.

Claims 55-57 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Gonzales et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,936,544). Claims 55-57 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 65-67 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Chamberlain et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,782,118). Claims 65-67 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 68-73 and 75 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by Nielsen (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0180582A1). Claims 68-73 and 75 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claim 9 was rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dent et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0178385A1) as applied to claim 8 above, and further in view of Tischendorf et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,933,086). Claim 9 is cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim 22 was rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tischendorf et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,933,086) as applied to claims 18 and 24 above, and further in view of over Dent et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0178385A1). Claim 22 is cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim 32 was rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tischendorf et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,933,086) as applied to claim 31 above, and further in view of over Goldman (U.S. Patent No. 5,321,963 ). Claim 32 is cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim 58 was rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gonzales et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,936,544) as applied to claim 55 above, and further in view of over Addy et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,243,010). Claim 58 is cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim 74 was rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nielsen (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0180582A1). Claim 74 is cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant acknowledges the allowance of claims 47-51 and 59-61.

Claims 36, 37, 44-46, 53 and 54 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has rewritten claims 37, 44, 45, and 54 in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any

intervening claims. The subject matter of claims 36 and 53 has been added to their respective parent claims 35 and 52, which Applicant believes are now allowable.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance, and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney at (612) 359-3267 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

RAYMOND J. MENARD ET AL.

By their Representatives,

SCHWEGMAN, LUNDBERG, WOESSNER & KLUTH, P.A.  
P.O. Box 2938  
Minneapolis, MN 55402  
(612) 359-3267

Date 2/17/05

By Peter C. Maki  
Peter C. Maki  
Reg. No. 42,832

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22312-1450, on this 18 day of February, 2005.

Paula Suchy

Name

Paula Suchy

Signature